UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/627
2 November 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 18

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the General Assembly the following messages from Governments of Member States that have been received on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (see annex).

Any further messages received will be published as addenda to this note.

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ANNEX

Messages received from Governments of Member States on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

AFGHANISTAN

Message from His Excellency Mr. Abdul Wakil, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan

[Original: English]

Three full decades have elapsed since the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of an important document that, for the first time in the history of mankind, calls for putting an end to a shameful practice in relations among nations.

The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples solemnly proclaimed the necessity of bringing a speedy and unconditional end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed the right of all peoples to be the real masters of their own destiny, freely determine their political status and freely choose their economic, social and cultural development. As a result of the heroic struggle of people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America for their independence, supported by the United Nations system, dozens of new independent and sovereign States joined the community of nations and play a significant role in contemporary international relations.

Early this year, the international community was witness of a historic event in the process of decolonization. The people of Namibia gained their independence and joined our organization as a sovereign State.

We call upon the United Nations and every individual State to take specific steps towards total eradication of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations by the end of this century.

The Republic of Afghanistan hopes that the people of the Western Sahara and of the remaining non-self governing territories should be given the opportunity to exercise fully their right to self-determination and independence.

The Government and people of the Republic of Afghanistan, as one of the co-sponsors of the Declaration on decolonization, have always supported the struggle of colonial and oppressed people against colonialism, racism, apartheid and all forms of discrimination that deprive people of their inalienable rights and freedom and we proudly continue to do so.

ARGENTINA

Message from the Government of the Republic of Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

The Government and people of the Republic of Argentina join in commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in the full and firm belief that a world for ever free of colonialism will soon become a reality.

It has been a long and hard road to decolonization. Since 14 December 1960, when the General Assembly adopted resolution 1514 (XV). Since then, many countries, guided by the Declaration, have won their freedom and independence. While there is much cause to celebrate the progress achieved, we should not forget that there is still a list of Non-Self-Governing Territories and that the process of decolonization has still not been completed. Among the issues still pending is the question of the Malvinas, which constitutes an anachronistic colonial situation that violates the territorial integrity of Argentina. The solution to this problem has been indicated time and time again in General Assembly resolutions and the Government of my country is committed to the implementation of those resolutions.

The international community must therefore express without delay its total support for the full application of resolution 1514 (XV) so that in the near future we will be able to close this dark chapter in world history once and for all.

The Government of Argentina wishes to highlight the achievements of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and its importance for the process of decolonization now taking place. My Government is also grateful for the Special Committee's efforts towards this end and hopes that the Committee will redouble its efforts to rid the world of the last vestiges of colonialism.

CHILE

Message from His Excellency Mr. Edmundo Vargas Carreno, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile

[Original: Spanish]

On this thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Government and people of Chile wish to reiterate their complete support for the principles of this Declaration, which has enabled countless countries to be members of the community of free and sovereign nations today.

READEX FICHE

General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) has enhanced the prestige of the United Nations and is proof that reason can prevail over violence.

This year, the world witnessed and celebrated the independence of Namibia, an example of how seemingly unattainable goals can be achieved through peace and international agreement.

Chile has been a member of the Special Committee since its inception and earnestly hopes that, at the dawn of the new century, all colonial situations in the world will have come to an end and that the principle of the self-determination of peoples will finally be applied in all Territories still under colonial domination.

COLOMBIA

Message from His Excellency Mr. Luis Fernando Jaramillo Correa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia

[Original: Spanish]

I have the honour to write to you on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and to express my gratitude for the progress achieved by the United Nations in this area. The independence of Namibia, one of the last remaining colonial enclaves, is a magnificent victory which fills us with hope for peace in the future.

Colombia has watched the decolonization process closely. True to our principles, we will continue to play an active part in defending the right of all countries to the freedom to determine their political status and pursue their own path to economic, social and cultural development.

MONGOLIA

Message from His Excellency Mr. Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat, President of the Mongolian People's Republic

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Government and people of the Mongolian People's Republic and in my own name, I wish to extend our sincere greetings to you, Mr. President, and to all the participants of this commemorative meeting.

The adoption 30 years ago by the United Nations General Assembly of the historic document known as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples provided an outstanding impetus to the struggle of colonial countries and peoples for freedom and independence. Over the past three decades a great number of countries shook off the colonial yoke, created their sovereign States, and became full-fledged members of the United Nations.

However, the policies of colonialism, apartheid, and racialism have not yet been completely wiped out from the face of our planet and millions of people are still deprived of the chance to exercise their right to self-determination. We, therefore, believe that further vigorous fight for the eradication of the remnants of colonialism remains to be one of the important common tasks of the international community.

My Government welcomed the proclamation by the forty-third session of the General Assembly of 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, considering it as a most timely decision aimed at securing the implementation of the historic Declaration.

The recent major changes discerned in world development and international relations will have a significant impact on accomplishing the objectives of this decolonization manifesto.

In expressing my belief that this commemorative meeting will make an important contribution to that end, I wish it every success.

NIGERIA

Message from His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I wish to extend warm felicitations to the United Nations on the occasion of the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Nigeria is indeed delighted to have been closely associated with the elaboration and adoption of the Declaration, which is embodied in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

Perhaps no other people suffered the worst ravages of colonialism more than the people and continent of Africa. As we mark the adoption of this seminal declaration, which sets out both the philosophical and practical framework for the promotion and enjoyment of the inalienable right to self-determination, we, in Africa, have cause for real celebration. Thirty years after the adoption of the Declaration, our continent is virtually free of the scourge of colonialism. Namibia's independence on 21 March this year, marked a watershed in the history of Africa, as the last formal colony on the continent gained its freedom and dignity.

Even as we all celebrate the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), it is the cherished view of the Government and people of Nigeria that we must not relent our efforts until the last vestiges of colonialism have been eradicated. It is for this reason that Nigeria stands ready to contribute to all efforts to make our world free of colonialism, at the latest by the year 2000 as already agreed.

Once again, on behalf of the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, accept my congratulations on this important occasion.

PERU

Message from His Excellency Mr. Luis Marchand Stens, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru

[Original: Spanish]

On the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and of the historic resolution 1514 (XV), the Government of Peru wishes to renew its solemn commitment to the efforts being made to secure the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination and independence.

The solidarity of the Government of Peru with the just cause of peoples seeking to put an end to colonialism is manifested in its consistent rejection of all forms of imperialism, neo-colonialism and racial discrimination, as reflected in the Political Constitution of the State.

We wish to highlight the role played by the United Nations in consolidating the right of peoples to respect for their ethnic and cultural identity and independence, through dialogue and procedures for peaceful consultation; the Organization has thus succeeded in mobilizing the support of Governments and world public opinion for the fight against colonialism. In this context, we would recall the heroic deeds of the people of Namibia, who have won their independence through their own sacrifice and with the support of the United Nations and the international community.

The people and Government of Peru, in this time of sweeping international changes, reiterates its moral and political support for the struggle to eliminate the last vestiges of colonialism and of the shameful and anachronistic régime of apartheid and to pave the way for a fairer and more egalitarian system throughout the world.

PHILIPPINES

Message from His Excellency Mr. Raul S. Manglapus, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines

[Original: English]

As a co-sponsor in 1960 of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) known as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Philippines is pleased to join the international community in observing the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration. The Declaration ushered in the liberation of over 80 million colonized peoples from some 60 former colonial territories during the past 30 years.

Namibia, which struggled painfully long to free itself from colonialism and illegal occupation, is the most recent addition to the list of States that are finally independent and sovereign.

Without doubt, the decolonization process is one of the most durable achievements of the United Nations. There are, however, remaining non-self governing dependent peoples in the world today. On this occasion, the Philippines finds it fitting to reaffirm its unequivocal stand on the question of decolonization. The Philippines remains steadfast in its conviction that peoples under colonial rule have a right to exercise self-determination, they have a right to freedom and independence. No nation must be under the subjugation of another.

As the international community is in the process of building a new, more just and peaceful world order, colonialism cannot have a part in our vision of that new order. All dependent peoples must be set on the road to freedom pursuant to the principles of self-determination set down in the historic declaration. Once the remaining vestiges of colonialism are finally eliminated, then and only then can we look forward to a new bright world.

SUDAN

Message from His Excellency Mr. Omer Hassan Ahmed El Bashir, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Sudan

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, we would like to express to you and to the international community our appreciation of the efforts taken so far for the eradication of all forms of colonialism, the subjection of people to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation.

It is indeed gratifying to see the efforts of the international community, having culminated in the independence of Namibia. Yet it is regrettable to see that the international community is still confronted with serious issues of profound importance. The explosive situation in the occupied Arab territories is still a living example of alien domination and enforced military occupation. The Palestinian people continue to be subjected to Israeli colonial domination under tragic conditions of severe violence, bloodshed and massacre. The abhorrent policies of apartheid and zionism on South African and Palestinian people, respectively, are still continuing without effective measures being taken for their complete eradication.

On this important occasion, the Sudan expresses its deepest concern of the new existing and emerging forms of colonization and foreign domination.

We urge the international community to exert more efforts to eliminate all forms of colonial domination, apartheid, racial discrimination and foreign intervention in the regional and national affairs of other States. In this regard,

the role of the United Nations Organization is important. The firm commitment of all Member States to the resolutions of the United Nations is a condition precedent for the success of the captioned role.

In conclusion, we would like, on this occasion to reaffirm the commitment of my country, the Sudan, to remain an active participant within the international community for the attainment of our mutual goals.

VANUATU

Message from the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu reaffirms the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Over the last 30 years, much has been achieved by the United Nations in the field of decolonialization. We applaud these achievements, and commend the laudable efforts currently being made as part of the decolonialization process.

As the international community enters the decisive stage of the decolonialization process, we join in appealing for an end to all forms of colonialism by the end of the current decade. Furthermore, we join in urging the remaining administering Powers to help create, in an expeditious fashion, the conditions for acts of self-determination to be conducted in accordance with the principles and practices of the United Nations.

VENEZUELA

Message from His Excellency Mr. Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]

As we commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Government of Venezuela wishes once again to express its commitment to the principle of self-determination of peoples established in resolution 1514 (XV), adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1960.

In the monumental undertaking of the United Nations in the area of decolonization, Venezuela has given its unconditional support to the efforts to end all forms and manifestations of colonialism, through its participation in the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The

Special Committee has made a decisive contribution to the international community's efforts to promote self-determination and independence in pursuance of the Declaration.

Venezuela, a free and democratic country which upholds the principles of the United Nations Charter, joins the rest of the world in celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration and is confident that with the full application of the principle of self-determination of peoples the world will be rid of colonialism by the year 2000.